

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process for installing a plastic connector bushing in a plastic water supply tube comprising:

a) cutting a hole of predetermined diameter in said water supply tube;

b) locating the connector bushing in the hole, the connector bushing having an upper radial flange, and wherein a metal washer is interposed between an underside of the radial flange and an area of the water supply tube surrounding the hole; and

c) applying energy to the metal washer sufficient to cause melting of respective facing surface portions of the radial flange and water supply tube to thereby form a bonded joint between the connector bushing and the water supply tube.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the connector bushing and water supply tube are constructed of polyethylene.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the metal washer is constructed of stainless steel wire mesh.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the energy applied in step c) is in the form of RF energy.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the energy applied in step c) is in the form of an electromagnetic field.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the energy applied in step c) is resistance heating.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the resistance heating is generated by a DC battery.

8. The method of claim 1 including:

d) applying pressure to the bonded joint.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the metal washer is formed with a pair of outwardly extending tabs for facilitating application of energy in step c).

10. The method of claim 3 wherein the metal washer is formed with a pair of outwardly extending tabs for facilitating application of energy in step c) of claim 1.

11. The method of claim 3 wherein the hole and the metal washer have diameters of about 0.75 inch.

12. The method of claim 1 and further comprising:

d) installing a tubular supply line or riser connector in said connector bushing.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein said connector bushing is formed with a tapered through-bore.

14. The method of claim 12 wherein said connector bushing is formed with a tapered through-bore.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein said tubular supply line or riser connector has a correspondingly

tapered exterior surface for engagement with said tapered through-bore.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein a lower edge of said tubular supply line or riser connector is formed with a radial bead of larger diameter than a diameter of a lowermost edge of said connector bushing, and further wherein, during step d) of claim 12, said radial bead is pushed beyond the lowermost edge of said connector bushing.

17. The method of claim 15 and further comprising inserting one end of a supply line or riser into said tubular supply line or riser connector, and wherein a sprinkler or other irrigation product is attached to an opposite end of said supply line or riser.

18. The method of claim 12 wherein said connector includes a 90° elbow.

19. The method of claim 12 wherein said connector is substantially T-shaped.

20. An irrigation water supply tube and supply line or riser assembly comprising:

an irrigation tube for supplying water to at least one flexible supply line or rigid riser, said irrigation tube having at least one hole formed therein with a connector bushing inserted within said hole, said connector bushing having a radial flange bonded to a surface of said irrigation tube surrounding said hole, with a metal washer interposed between said radial flange

and said surface; a tubular connector inserted within said connector bushing; and a flexible supply line or rigid riser having one end inserted within said tubular connector.

21. The assembly of claim 20 wherein said connector bushing is formed with a tapered through-bore; and wherein said tubular connector has a correspondingly tapered exterior surface for engagement with said tapered through-bore.

22. The assembly of claim 21 wherein a lower edge of said tubular connector is formed with a radial bead of larger diameter than a diameter of a lowermost edge of said connector bushing, and further wherein, during step d) of claim 12, said radial bead is pushed beyond the lowermost edge of said connector bushing.

23. The assembly of claim 20 and further comprising an irrigation component attached to a remote end of said supply line or riser.

24. The assembly of claim 20 wherein said riser tube comprises a pair of tube components secured by a coupler.

25. The assembly of claim 20 wherein an irrigation component is attached to the other end of said supply line or riser.

26. The assembly of claim 20 wherein said irrigation tube has a plurality of holes formed therein, some of which have said connector bushings bonded therein

and others of which are closed by caps bonded over said holes.

27. The assembly of claim 20 wherein said irrigation tube and said connector bushing are constructed of polyethylene.

28. The assembly of claim 20 wherein said tubular connector includes a 90° elbow and said flexible supply line is inserted within a remote end of said tubular connector.

29. The assembly of claim 20 wherein said tubular connector includes a lower end portion and a pair of extensions transverse to said lower end portion, said pair of extensions having flexible supply lines inserted therein.